

**In the Specification:**

Page 4, lines 11-23, please amend the Specification as follows:

The present invention includes an elastomeric material formed from a latex formulation containing a base polymer ~~having carboxylate groups~~. The base polymer is combined with a carboxylic acid, or derivatives thereof, a divalent or trivalent metal, an amine or amino compound and a neutralizing agent. The latex formulation is based on the dry weight of the base polymer being used. The number of carboxylate groups on the base polymer will vary with the amount of unsaturated acid groups present in the polymer. The pH of the base polymer usually varies from about 8.0 to about 8.5, with a pH of 8.4 being typical. In addition, the base polymer generally has an acid number from about 4 to about 8. Typically, the acid number of the base polymer is about 6.